

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Fleming, Sheila](#)  
**Cc:** [Kelly, Joyce](#); [Voytilla, Marykay](#); [Maxwell, Grady](#); [Filippini, Mark](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Concerns about my work space  
**Date:** Thursday, September 04, 2014 10:11:42 AM

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Thanks that was my understanding and what I told Brian Kovak. He said that our problem will drag on for potentially months at a 20% outside air ventilation rate and that it should be 50% at a minimum.

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**From:** Fleming, Sheila  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 04, 2014 10:07 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Kelly, Joyce; Voytilla, Marykay; Maxwell, Grady; Filippini, Mark  
**Subject:** Re: Concerns about my work space

Hi (b) (6),

My understanding is that currently we are getting 20% outside air. I don't know what the schedule is to extend the hours of operation on the HVAC. We asked several weeks ago.

Sheila

On Sep 4, 2014, at 11:16 AM, (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) <[@epa.gov](#)> wrote:

Hi Joyce

Thanks for your response. I have been in contact with ERT to discuss having them support doing indoor air sampling for our floor. I think if we make the request that ERT is willing to do the sampling however I understand this will not resolve the air quality issue. Brian Kovak, who is ERTs H&S officer, recommended that we hold off on sampling and focus more on getting the building adequately ventilated. He said that the building should be ventilating with at least 50% outside air and should not be turning the HVAC off between 6 and 6. Brian is going to call Grady and share how similar problems have arisen and been resolved at Potomac yard and other EPA facilities. I would like to know what corrective action have been taken to date in regards to increasing ventilation on floor 14. Thanks (b) (6)

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**From:** Kelly, Joyce

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 03, 2014 6:21 AM

**To:** (b) (6)

**Cc:** Fleming, Sheila; Voytilla, Marykay; Maxwell, Grady; Filippini, Mark

**Subject:** RE: Concerns about my work space

Hello (b) (6),

I'm sorry to hear of the concerns about your work space on 14. I previously wrote to Mary Kay to raise the concerns I'd heard and the reactions that some in OEA expressed to me and/or to their direct supervisor upon moving to the new space. Some of the physical reactions that you mention, such as irritation in the throat and headaches, were encountered by others. With the help of our Risk Evaluation Unit and the Health and Safety Program, we proposed corrective actions and we're waiting for the determination. For now, you may want to continue to work in a flex cube on a floor that has not yet been remodeled and/or telework.

Joyce

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Joyce C. Kelly, Director

Office of Environmental Assessment

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**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2014 10:10 AM

**To:** Kelly, Joyce; Voytilla, Marykay

**Cc:** Fleming, Sheila; Pirzadeh, Michelle

**Subject:** Concerns about my work space

Hi Joyce and Marykay,

This purpose of this email is to document some serious health concerns that I have about our new work space. Monday I arrived in the office around 6 and within a half hour of being in my space my eyes were stinging and I was finding it hard to focus on my computer screen. As the day progressed I continued to have unusual symptoms including swelling of my hands, irritation in my throat, joint pain in my knees, and headache. I left work at 1:30 because I was feeling so badly that I was unable to get any work completed. By about 5:00 pm that day I was feeling fine. Tuesday I came into work and experienced similar symptoms. I could not leave to work at home because I had a meeting scheduled for late in the day with several people in the Elwah room. When (b) (6) arrived on our floor for the meeting he mentioned to me that he felt his eyes stinging within 5 minutes of being in the conference room. By the end of this meeting my knee joints were in so much pain I had to limp to the bus and I felt sick much of the evening. I took Wednesday off and all these symptoms went away. I have now been in the office for approximately 4 hours and all of the symptoms listed above started within a half hour of entering the 14<sup>th</sup> floor. I am not a chemically sensitive person and I have been on numerous superfund sites with significant contamination over the 20 plus years I have worked for the EPA. I have never experienced such obvious reactions to some type of chemical exposure as I have in our building this week. I am very concerned about what I am being exposed to that is causing all of these symptoms and further I am finding it very difficult to focus on my work. I am not sure what the appropriate corrective actions should be but there definitely needs to be some focused attention put to what is causing the health impacts on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor. Thanks (b) (6)

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